

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following as the claims in this case.

1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (currently amended) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 37.

6. (Original) A cell comprising an expression vector according to Claim 5.

7. (Original) A cell comprising an expression vector according to Claim 6 and capable of expressing σ_{18} .

8-32. (Canceled)

33. (currently amended) A transformed host cell comprising the polynucleotide of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 37.

34 -35. (Canceled).

36. (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide which encodes for the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.